December 2008

January to September 2008

Alberta

Alberta's International Merchandise Exports
January – September 2008
Highlights

Overview

During the first nine months of 2008, the value of Alberta's international goods exports grew by 37.0% from the same period in 2007, to a record high $82.7 billion. This increase is the result of much higher prices, especially of energy commodities (such as crude oil, natural gas and sulphur) and crops (such as wheat and barley). Volumes contracted by an estimated 1.6%, largely because of a 10.0% drop in natural gas volumes. In the third quarter of 2008, exports grew by 48.8% from the same quarter in 2007 to a record $29.6 billion. However, third quarter export gains were entirely price driven as volumes declined.

Major Commodities

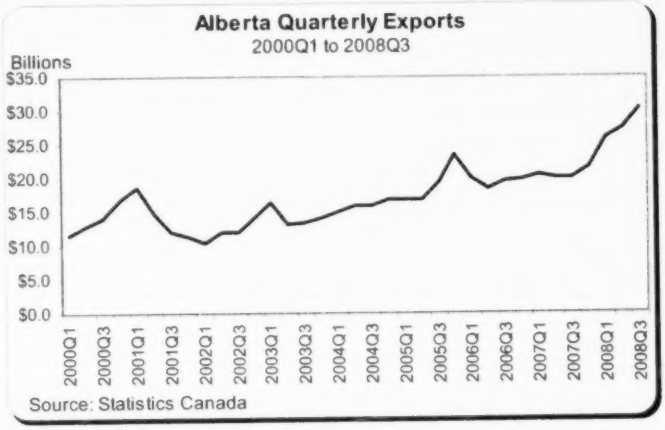
Between January and September of 2008, exports of sulphur increased to more than five times its value from the same period in 2007, to $1.7 billion. This was caused by a five-fold increase in prices. Crude oil, propane and natural gas rose 77.8%, 39.7% and 13.6%, respectively. Crude oil and propane registered both higher export volumes and prices, but natural gas volumes fell while its price rose. Wheat and durum wheat advanced on higher prices, and barley and canola advanced on both higher prices and volumes. Lower prices and volumes led to a decline in lumber exports. Ethylene polymers and ethylene glycol advanced on higher prices. Exports of nickel fell due to lower prices. Boring and sinking machinery (for oil and gas fields) advanced sharply on higher volumes while cobalt exports increased due to higher prices.

Exports by Industry

From January to September of 2008, the value of mining and energy exports rose 49.8% as compared to the same period last year. Increases for sulphur (up 465.0%), crude oil (up 77.8%), and natural gas and gas liquids (up 14.9%) drove the increase in the mining and energy sector. Though livestock exports fell by 15.7%, a 53.0% rise in crop exports led to an increase of 37.3% for primary agricultural products. Manufacturing exports increased 6.5% over the same period: declines of 37.9% in the exports of wood products and of 16.2% in both primary metals and computer and electronic products was more than offset by large increases for industries such as machinery (up 25.7%) and chemicals (up 15.6%).

Exports by Country

Year-to-date, exports to Alberta's top three destinations (U.S., China, and Japan) rose by 38.6%, 23.6% and 35.4% respectively. Exports to the U.S. were driven by large gains in the export of crude oil, natural gas and propane. Ethylene polymers, sulphur and nickel were the main drivers behind the increase in exports to China, while canola, coal and cobalt led growth in exports to Japan. Alberta more than quadrupled its exports to Brazil (up 314.5% as a result of increases in sulphur, wheat and potassium chloride), and more than tripled its exports to Israel (up 269.1% - sulphur, polymers of ethylene and coal) and to Iran (up 254.6% - wheat, parts of boring and sinking machinery and barley), as compared to the same period in 2007. Exports to Australia, South Africa, Chile, Kazakhstan and Egypt more than doubled over the same period. Sizeable gains in exports were noted in all but three (the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Russia) of Alberta's top 15 markets.



ALBERTA'S INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE EXPORTS TO TOP 50 COUNTRIES/MARKETS

	Third Quarter			January to September		
Countries/Markets	**2007 ($ '000)**	**2008 ($ '000)**	**% Change**	**2007 ($ '000)**	**2008 ($ '000)**	**% Change**
United States	17,126,188	26,330,401	53.7%	52,277,152	72,449,570	38.6%
China	731,811	615,361	-15.9%	2,068,503	2,556,823	23.6%
Japan	353,866	490,208	38.5%	1,108,124	1,500,220	35.4%
Mexico	186,854	311,971	67.0%	517,516	754,874	45.9%
Brazil	56,764	187,794	230.8%	102,056	422,980	314.5%
Korea, South	103,457	140,689	36.0%	334,022	382,679	14.6%
Australia	64,526	117,604	82.3%	136,369	328,973	141.2%
Netherlands	122,876	83,655	-31.9%	419,638	244,334	-41.8%
Indonesia	64,143	65,664	2.4%	145,307	234,912	61.7%
South Africa	35,054	113,006	222.4%	79,068	189,073	139.1%
Taiwan	53,609	50,011	-6.7%	178,945	188,945	5.6%
Singapore	69,023	49,926	-27.7%	147,872	162,340	9.8%
United Kingdom	73,584	50,550	-31.3%	188,407	161,103	-14.5%
United Arab Emirates	37,805	59,352	57.0%	103,587	154,047	48.7%
Russia	63,938	52,566	-17.8%	167,523	144,917	-13.5%
Pakistan	15,488	47,688	207.9%	80,950	133,182	64.5%
Belgium	48,371	37,492	-22.5%	180,893	130,685	-27.8%
Saudi Arabia	18,573	19,259	3.7%	38,348	123,542	222.2%
Italy	44,557	35,411	-20.5%	157,009	116,574	-25.8%
Chile	12,886	49,199	281.8%	40,399	104,295	158.2%
Malaysia	26,060	21,282	-18.3%	62,280	100,698	61.7%
Venezuela	20,204	45,195	123.7%	72,461	99,337	37.1%
Algeria	8,326	19,952	139.6%	55,413	95,442	72.2%
Sri Lanka	19,538	23,727	21.4%	54,724	95,220	74.0%
Kazakhstan	11,450	12,817	11.9%	29,736	86,203	189.9%
Hong Kong	25,801	30,064	16.5%	86,752	85,258	-1.7%
Thailand	17,422	22,007	26.3%	59,046	71,414	20.9%
France	18,230	22,610	24.0%	63,844	69,701	9.2%
Cuba	15,809	16,813	6.4%	61,147	69,271	13.3%
India	26,035	25,674	-1.4%	56,228	67,367	19.8%
Israel	4,493	58,686	1206.2%	18,205	67,186	269.1%
Colombia	20,452	20,932	2.3%	51,720	64,078	23.9%
New Zealand	20,107	17,967	-10.6%	38,331	62,681	63.5%
Sudan	14,512	20,335	40.1%	53,637	58,416	8.9%
Egypt	8,054	23,732	194.7%	22,315	56,253	152.1%
Germany	17,430	15,737	-9.7%	98,656	53,084	-46.2%
Philippines	15,589	9,282	-40.5%	50,906	52,907	3.9%
Iran	5,259	40,385	668.0%	14,591	51,737	254.6%
Peru	11,593	15,268	31.7%	34,997	51,154	46.2%
Vietnam	20,335	13,857	-31.9%	53,735	48,909	-9.0%
Iraq	19,470	4,094	-79.0%	77,018	48,841	-36.6%
Bangladesh	36,936	17,674	-52.1%	70,843	47,627	-32.8%
Kuwait	6,144	26,759	335.5%	20,324	33,720	65.9%
Oman	3,819	17,925	369.3%	18,116	32,986	82.1%
Spain	16,249	12,044	-25.9%	60,062	32,760	-45.5%
Argentina	17,673	10,813	-38.8%	35,979	31,997	-11.1%
Ecuador	9,005	7,586	-15.8%	34,000	31,542	-7.2%
Switzerland	9,890	9,123	-7.7%	24,096	30,959	28.5%
Libya	3,854	5,027	30.4%	16,035	29,274	82.6%
Norway	10,151	10,082	-0.7%	25,083	28,748	14.6%
All Other Countries	161,309	114,406	-29.1%	418,733	412,280	-1.5%
Total Exports	**19,904,569**	**29,619,666**	**48.8%**	**60,310,700**	**82,651,120**	**37.0%**

ALBERTA EXPORTS TO ALL MARKETS BY INDUSTRY

EXPORTS BY INDUSTRY	Third Quarter			January to September		
	2007 ($ '000)	2008 ($ '000)	% Change	2007 ($ '000)	2008 ($ '000)	% Change
Primary Agriculture	**917,182**	**1,106,131**	**20.6%**	**2,665,184**	**3,659,555**	**37.3%**
Crops	727,573	939,108	29.1%	2,056,391	3,146,626	53.0%
Livestock	189,609	167,022	-11.9%	608,794	512,929	-15.7%
Primary Forestry, Fishing & Trapping	**1,113**	**1,404**	**26.2%**	**2,952**	**3,312**	**12.2%**
Mining & Energy	**13,313,631**	**22,081,054**	**65.9%**	**40,529,582**	**60,729,063**	**49.8%**
Crude Oil	7,322,369	14,704,843	100.8%	20,218,253	35,952,137	77.8%
Natural Gas & Natural Gas Liquids	5,718,572	6,518,380	14.0%	19,653,374	22,585,159	14.9%
Coal	117,844	194,344	64.9%	307,723	436,873	42.0%
Sulphur	135,539	642,371	373.9%	292,835	1,654,520	465.0%
Other Mining & Energy	19,307	21,116	9.4%	57,398	100,373	74.9%
Manufacturing	**5,443,936**	**6,162,263**	**13.2%**	**16,458,671**	**17,534,543**	**6.5%**
Chemicals	1,768,172	2,192,225	24.0%	5,248,134	6,066,489	15.6%
Food, Feed & Beverage	667,307	756,922	13.4%	2,097,293	2,290,757	9.2%
Machinery	758,148	1,003,269	32.3%	2,009,538	2,526,244	25.7%
Primary Metal Products	527,968	421,968	-20.1%	1,783,207	1,494,562	-16.2%
Paper Products & Wood Pulp	328,138	389,418	18.7%	1,040,002	1,181,574	13.6%
Petroleum & Coal Products	363,752	365,627	0.5%	973,605	1,063,386	9.2%
Computer & Electronic Products	239,348	219,157	-8.4%	835,791	700,232	-16.2%
Wood Products	220,400	168,214	-23.7%	718,662	446,191	-37.9%
Fabricated Metal Products	199,832	216,200	8.2%	592,711	567,383	-4.3%
Transportation Equipment	110,144	141,264	28.3%	398,178	398,420	0.1%
Electrical Equipment, App. & Comp.	82,750	83,903	1.4%	217,586	212,810	-2.2%
Plastics & Rubber Products	64,808	81,115	25.2%	168,772	216,677	28.4%
Furniture & Related Products	46,720	44,713	-4.3%	152,349	138,436	-9.1%
Non-Metallic Mineral Products	22,986	25,119	9.3%	80,636	76,997	-4.5%
Other Manufacturing	43,461	53,148	22.3%	142,207	154,386	8.6%
Other Exports	**228,707**	**268,814**	**17.5%**	**654,311**	**724,647**	**10.7%**
TOTAL	**19,904,569**	**29,619,666**	**48.8%**	**60,310,700**	**82,651,120**	**37.0%**

ALBERTA'S TOP 50 COMMODITY EXPORTS TO THE WORLD

	Third Quarter			January to September		
Commodities	**2007 ($ '000)**	**2008 ($ '000)**	**% Change**	**2007 ($ '000)**	**2008 ($ '000)**	**% Change**
Crude oil	7,321,562	14,704,768	100.8%	20,215,865	35,952,061	77.8%
Natural gas	5,418,262	6,120,035	13.0%	18,611,424	21,146,438	13.6%
Sulphur	135,539	642,371	373.9%	292,835	1,654,520	465.0%
Polymers of ethylene nes, in primary forms	462,496	622,951	34.7%	1,293,386	1,587,181	22.7%
Wheat (other than durum wheat), and meslin	352,760	427,032	21.1%	919,735	1,403,217	52.6%
Propane, liquefied	259,520	337,303	30.0%	920,309	1,285,806	39.7%
Low erucic acid canola	225,600	379,802	68.4%	635,309	1,150,099	81.0%
Ethylene glycol	261,617	289,317	10.6%	837,029	1,019,499	21.8%
Polyethylene having a spec gravity of <0.94	267,470	254,808	-4.7%	759,208	750,789	-1.1%
Parts for boring or sinking machinery, nes	124,103	288,963	132.8%	360,442	596,711	65.5%
Meat of bovine animals, boneless, fresh or chilled	165,563	219,031	32.3%	552,783	582,858	5.4%
Nickel, unwrought	243,202	151,517	-37.7%	905,082	553,350	-38.9%
Heavy oils (not crude), e.g. diesel	177,556	151,937	-14.4%	451,404	488,734	8.3%
Chemical woodpulp, coniferous	153,079	163,230	6.6%	461,703	483,266	4.7%
Low value and confidential commodities	151,662	175,587	15.8%	444,577	464,657	4.5%
Urea	99,509	185,911	86.8%	311,217	443,970	42.7%
Anhydrous ammonia	54,514	185,109	239.6%	256,429	440,969	72.0%
Bituminous coal	117,104	191,284	63.3%	305,283	424,677	39.1%
Bovine animals, live, nes	161,883	136,987	-15.4%	512,064	424,343	-17.1%
Chemical woodpulp, non-coniferous	85,598	132,527	54.8%	302,380	416,379	37.7%
Styrene	149,719	127,091	-15.1%	435,258	399,975	-8.1%
Ethylene, propylene, butylene and butadiene liquified	79,400	98,517	24.1%	218,463	264,250	21.0%
Boring or sinking machinery, not self-propelled	86,201	116,530	35.2%	198,172	262,606	32.5%
Coniferous wood sawn > 6mm thick	112,795	94,323	-16.4%	347,221	253,864	-26.9%
Pipe/oil line >16", iron/steel, long sub arc weld	111,287	29,516	-73.5%	328,843	245,984	-25.2%
Cobalt, unwrought	59,672	69,922	17.2%	197,517	245,503	24.3%
Acyclic hydrocarbons, unsaturated nes	86,232	67,565	-21.6%	214,097	235,100	9.8%
Canola oilcake & low erucic acid, nes	76,121	22,741	-70.1%	252,200	215,511	-14.5%
Polyethylene having a spec gravity of <0.94	64,810	70,853	9.3%	170,527	214,048	25.5%
Air/gas pumps, compressors and fans, nes	71,007	83,294	17.3%	169,465	208,794	23.2%
Barley	24,098	21,910	-9.1%	72,114	191,593	165.7%
Durum wheat	32,588	46,083	41.4%	103,785	185,222	78.5%
Acyclic hydrocarbons, unsaturated nes	71,522	76,019	6.3%	198,295	182,250	-8.1%
Turbopropellers, not exceeding 1,100 Kw	40,580	66,070	62.8%	151,038	179,419	18.8%
Malt	26,694	55,734	108.8%	98,082	177,338	80.8%
Machines/mechanical appliances w. individual function	46,656	65,582	40.6%	102,294	164,941	61.2%
Semichemical woodpulp	50,861	48,372	-4.9%	146,110	159,505	9.2%
Potatoes, prepared, frozen	55,811	53,146	-4.8%	172,967	158,060	-8.6%
Butanes, liquefied	34,519	60,805	76.1%	97,811	152,112	55.5%
Light petroleum oil preparations, e.g. motor gasoline	74,361	44,582	-40.0%	193,523	143,585	-25.8%
Taps, cocks for pipes, vats incl. thermo control	43,256	46,765	8.1%	140,406	127,260	-9.4%
Canola/colza oil & fractions, low erucic acid, nes	34,612	46,162	33.4%	82,120	122,918	49.7%
Ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers, primary forms	26,019	52,330	101.1%	81,984	119,597	45.9%
Engine and motor parts, nes	33,781	43,328	28.3%	102,727	117,881	14.8%
Petroleum bitumen	6,052	51,756	755.2%	43,152	115,375	167.4%
Surveying instruments and appliances, nes	40,157	26,276	-34.6%	142,293	112,593	-20.9%
Canola oilcake & low erucic acid, nes	23,189	37,802	63.0%	69,649	111,741	60.4%
Pork, nes, fresh or frozen	37,912	36,520	-3.7%	130,683	111,555	-14.6%
Iron/steel casing & tubing for oil and gas drilling	23,512	56,531	140.4%	50,101	107,808	115.2%
Special purpose vehicles, nes	19,463	38,866	99.7%	81,592	100,647	23.4%
TOTAL ABOVE	**17,881,486**	**27,515,462**	**53.9%**	**54,140,956**	**76,656,562**	**41.6%**
TOTAL	**19,904,569**	**29,619,666**	**48.8%**	**60,310,700**	**82,651,120**	**37.0%**

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ISSN: 1710-8691
ISSN: 1911-253X (PDF)

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Printed in Canada